# UNITED STATES BANKRUPTCY COURT SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF NEW YORK

In re:		Chapter 11
RML, LLC, <sup>1</sup>		Case No. 22-10784 (DSJ)
	Debtor.	

#### ORDER ON MOTION FOR AN ORDER ESTABLISHING STREAMLINED PROCEDURES GOVERNING ADVERSARY PROCEEDINGS WITH TOTAL IN CONTROVERSY LESS THAN OR EQUAL TO \$150,000 BROUGHT BY THE DEBTORS PURSUANT TO SECTIONS 502, 547 AND 550 OF THE BANKRUPTCY CODE

Upon the Motion for Orders Establishing Streamlined Procedures Governing Adversary Proceedings Brought by Plaintiff Pursuant to Sections 502, 547 and 550 of the Bankruptcy Code (the "Motion"),<sup>2</sup> filed by Old Revco GUC Liquidating Trust (the "Plaintiff" or "Trust"), by and through its undersigned counsel, for entry of a procedures order (the "Procedures Order") establishing streamlined procedures governing the adversary proceedings with total transfers less than or equal to \$150,000 brought by Plaintiff pursuant to Sections 502, 547 and 550 of the Bankruptcy Code identified in Exhibit 1 annexed hereto (each an "Avoidance Action," collectively, the "Avoidance Actions"); and the Court having jurisdiction to consider and determine the Motion as a core proceeding in accordance with 28 U.S.C. §§ 157(a)-(b) and 1334(b) and the Amended Standing Order of Reference M-431, dated January 31, 2012 (Preska, C.J.); and venue being proper before the Court pursuant to 28 U.S.C. §§ 1408 and 1409; and due and proper

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> On May 30, 2023, the Court entered the *Order (I) Consolidating Remaining Matters Under the Remaining Case, (II) Entering Final Decree Closing the Affiliate Cases, (III) Changing the Case Caption of the Remaining Case, and (IV) Granting Related Relief* [Docket No. 68], closing the affiliated chapter 11 cases and directing that all motions, notices, and other pleadings related to any of the affiliated debtors be filed in this case. The location of RML, LLC's service address for purposes of these Chapter 11 Cases is: 55 Water St., 43rd Floor, New York, NY 10041-0004.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> Capitalized terms not otherwise defined herein shall have the same meaning ascribed to them as in the Procedures Motion.

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notice of the Motion and the opportunity for a hearing thereon having been provided; and it

appearing that no other or further notice need be provided; and the only objection(s), if any, to the

Motion having been withdrawn, overruled, or otherwise resolved; and a Certificate of No

Objection having been filed [ECF No. 857] and the Court having determined that no hearing on

the Motion is required; and, after due deliberation the Court having determined that the legal and

factual bases set forth in the Motion establish good and sufficient cause for the relief granted herein

and that such relief is in the best interests of the Plaintiff, Debtors' creditors, and all parties in

interest in that it will facilitate the prompt, economical and fair determination and resolution of the

Avoidance Actions; now, therefore, [DSJ 3/12/2024]

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED THAT:

1. The Motion is granted as provided herein. [DSJ 3/12/2024]

2. All parties to the Avoidance Actions shall be governed by the procedures attached

hereto as Exhibit 2 (the "Avoidance Action Procedures") and incorporated herein by

reference, which Avoidance Action Procedures are hereby approved and shall govern the

Avoidance Actions, effective as of the date of this Order.

3. The time periods set forth in this Order and the Avoidance Action Procedures shall

be calculated in accordance with Bankruptcy Rule 9006(a).

4. The Court retains jurisdiction with respect to all matters arising from or related to

the implementation of this Order.

5. This Order shall be effective immediately upon its entry.

Dated: New York, New York

March 12, 2024

s/David S. Jones

HONORABLE DAVID S. JONES

UNITED STATES BANKRUPTCY JUDGE

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# Exhibit 1

# **CASE LIST**

Defendant Name	Adversary Number
ABM Industries Incorporated dba ABM Janitorial Services	
Northeast, Inc.	24-01007
Acme Cosmetic Components, LLC	24-01008
Acme International, LLC	24-01009
Acoustic L.P.	24-01010
Acquia Inc.	24-01011
Active Concepts, LLC	24-01012
Advantage Conveyor Inc.	24-01017
Aerosols Danville, Inc.	24-01018
AGI-Shorewood Group US, LLC fdba Shorewood Packaging Corp.	24-01019
Alvarado Tax & Business Advisors LLC	24-01029
AptarGroup, Inc.	24-01035
arcserve (USA) LLC	24-01037
Aura Merchandising Ltd.	24-01041
Bell Container Corp.	24-01253
Bespoke Digital, Inc.	24-01255
Bormioli Luigi Corporation fdba Luigi Bormioli Corporation	24-01056
Brivaplast USA	24-01061
Brook & Whittle Limited	24-01062
Caleb Chemical, Inc.	24-01064
Carolina Fire Protection, Inc.	24-01065
Carolina Precision Plastics, L.L.C. dba CPPGlobal	24-01066
Channel Systems, LLC	24-01070
Charkit Chemical Company, LLC	24-01075
CHEP, LLC	24-01082
Cintas Corporation	24-01084
Class International, Inc. dba Krystal Products, Co.	24-01088
Closer&Closer, LLC	24-01090
Color Techniques, Inc.	24-01091
Colt's Plastics Company, Inc.	24-01095
Commerce Technologies, LLC dba CommerceHub	24-01098
Cornerstone Packaging WA, Inc. dba Cornerstone Packaging Inc.	24-01107
Covestro LLC	24-01109
Coyote Logistics, LLC	24-01110

Data Systems International, Inc.	Custom Ingredients LLC fdba Custom Ingredients Inc.	24-01117
Dehnco Equipment & Supplies, Inc.         24-01120           Dell Marketing L.P.         24-01262           Dermatech Associates, Inc.         24-01124           Designalytics, Inc.         24-01125           DeWolf Chemical, LLC         24-01126           DHHA OMC QALICB, Inc. dba Rocky Mountain Poison & Drug         24-01127           Center         24-01127           Diamo's Custom Candles, LLC         24-01130           ESI Group, Inc. dba Ovation InStore         24-01130           Ebb and Flow Editing         24-01133           Electronic Imaging Services, Inc.         24-01135           Embrace ECommerce LLC         24-01136           EMD Performance Materials Corp.         24-01267           Equiniti Trust Company, LLC fdba American Stock Transfer & Trust Company, LLC.         24-01138           Essential Ingredients, Inc.         24-01271           Essex Testing Clinic, Inc.         24-01140           Fabric Resources International, Ltd.         24-01141           Fish Bowl Studios, LLC         24-01142           Fisher Scientific Company L.L.C.         24-01143           Fragrance Unlimited II Inc.         24-01143           Fragrance Unlimited II Inc.         24-01147           Franchise Tax Board         24-01153 <td< td=""><td>Data Systems International, Inc.</td><td>24-01118</td></td<>	Data Systems International, Inc.	24-01118
Dell Marketing L.P.   24-01262     Dermatech Associates, Inc.   24-01124     Designalytics, Inc.   24-01125     DeWolf Chemical, LLC   24-01126     DHHA OMC QALICB, Inc. dba Rocky Mountain Poison & Drug Center   24-01127     Dianne's Custom Candles, LLC   24-01128     DSI Group, Inc. dba Ovation InStore   24-01130     Ebb and Flow Editing   24-01133     Electronic Imaging Services, Inc.   24-01135     Embrace ECommerce LLC   24-01136     EMD Performance Materials Corp.   24-01267     Equiniti Trust Company, LLC fdba American Stock Transfer & Trust Company, LLC.   24-01140     Essex Testing Clinic, Inc.   24-01140     Fabric Resources International, Ltd.   24-01141     Fish Bowl Studios, LLC   24-01142     Fisher Scientific Company L.L.C.   24-01143     Fragrance Unlimited II Inc.   24-01147     Franchise Tax Board   24-01150     GCA Services Group, Inc.   24-01153     Glow Art LLC dba Gloss Studio   24-01153     Glow Art LLC dba Gloss Studio   24-01126     Harcros Chemicals Inc.   24-0128     Harcros Chemicals Inc.   24-01290     Jasper416 Consulting, LLC   24-0124     ISO Plastics Corporation   24-0124	DBA Media, LLC	24-01119
Dell Marketing L.P.   24-01262     Dermatech Associates, Inc.   24-01124     Designalytics, Inc.   24-01125     DeWolf Chemical, LLC   24-01126     DHHA OMC QALICB, Inc. dba Rocky Mountain Poison & Drug Center   24-01127     Dianne's Custom Candles, LLC   24-01128     DSI Group, Inc. dba Ovation InStore   24-01130     Ebb and Flow Editing   24-01133     Electronic Imaging Services, Inc.   24-01135     Embrace ECommerce LLC   24-01136     EMD Performance Materials Corp.   24-01267     Equiniti Trust Company, LLC fdba American Stock Transfer & Trust Company, LLC.   24-01140     Essex Testing Clinic, Inc.   24-01140     Fabric Resources International, Ltd.   24-01141     Fish Bowl Studios, LLC   24-01142     Fisher Scientific Company L.L.C.   24-01143     Fragrance Unlimited II Inc.   24-01147     Franchise Tax Board   24-01150     GCA Services Group, Inc.   24-01153     Glow Art LLC dba Gloss Studio   24-01153     Glow Art LLC dba Gloss Studio   24-01126     Harcros Chemicals Inc.   24-0128     Harcros Chemicals Inc.   24-01290     Jasper416 Consulting, LLC   24-0124     ISO Plastics Corporation   24-0124	Dehnco Equipment & Supplies, Inc.	24-01120
Dermatech Associates, Inc.   24-01124     Designalytics, Inc.   24-01125     DeWolf Chemical, LLC   24-01126     DHHA OMC QALICB, Inc. dba Rocky Mountain Poison & Drug Center   24-01127     Dianne's Custom Candles, LLC   24-01128     Dianne's Custom Candles, LLC   24-01130     Ebb and Flow Editing   24-01133     Electronic Imaging Services, Inc.   24-01135     Embrace ECommerce LLC   24-01136     EmD Performance Materials Corp.   24-01267     Equiniti Trust Company, LLC fdba American Stock Transfer & Trust Company, LLC.   24-01138     Essex Testing Clinic, Inc.   24-01271     Essex Testing Clinic, Inc.   24-01140     Fabric Resources International, Ltd.   24-01141     Fish Bowl Studios, LLC   24-01142     Fisher Scientific Company L.L.C.   24-01143     Fragrance Unlimited II Inc.   24-01147     Fragrance Unlimited II Inc.   24-01147     Fragrance Tax Board   24-01155     GCA Services Group, Inc.   24-01155     GFR Media, LLC   24-01128     Halo Branded Solutions, Inc.   24-01222     Halo Branded Solutions, Inc.   24-01228     Ileos Beauty USA Corp. dba Axilone USA   24-01235     Innovation Brands Corp. dba DojoMojo!   24-01236     International Machine Technology, Inc.   24-01247     International Research Services, Inc.   24-01247     International Machine Technology, Inc.   24-01247     International Research Services, Inc.   24-01		24-01262
DeWolf Chemical, LLC		24-01124
DHHA OMC QALICB, Inc. dba Rocky Mountain Poison & Drug Center   24-01127	Designalytics, Inc.	24-01125
DHHA OMC QALICB, Inc. dba Rocky Mountain Poison & Drug Center   24-01127	DeWolf Chemical, LLC	24-01126
Dianne's Custom Candles, LLC		
DSI Group, Inc. dba Ovation InStore   24-01130	Center	24-01127
Ebb and Flow Editing	Dianne's Custom Candles, LLC	24-01128
Electronic Imaging Services, Inc.	DSI Group, Inc. dba Ovation InStore	24-01130
Embrace ECommerce LLC         24-01136           EMD Performance Materials Corp.         24-01267           Equiniti Trust Company, LLC fdba American Stock Transfer & Trust Company, LLC.         24-01138           Essential Ingredients, Inc.         24-01271           Essex Testing Clinic, Inc.         24-01140           Fabric Resources International, Ltd.         24-01141           Fish Bowl Studios, LLC         24-01142           Fisher Scientific Company L.L.C.         24-01278           Foam Products Corp.         24-01143           Fragrance Unlimited II Inc.         24-01147           Franchise Tax Board         24-01150           GCA Services Group, Inc.         24-01155           GFR Media, LLC         24-01153           Glow Art LLC dba Gloss Studio         24-01162           Greentech USA, Inc.         24-01222           Halo Branded Solutions, Inc.         24-01226           Harcros Chemicals Inc.         24-01228           Ileos Beauty USA Corp. dba Axilone USA         24-01235           Innospec Active Chemicals LLC         24-01236           Innovation Brands Corp. dba DojoMojo!         24-01239           International Machine Technology, Inc.         24-01243           International Research Services, Inc.         24-01247      <	Ebb and Flow Editing	24-01133
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Company, LLC.         24-01138           Essential Ingredients, Inc.         24-01271           Essex Testing Clinic, Inc.         24-01140           Fabric Resources International, Ltd.         24-01141           Fish Bowl Studios, LLC         24-01142           Fisher Scientific Company L.L.C.         24-01278           Foam Products Corp.         24-01143           Fragrance Unlimited II Inc.         24-01147           Franchise Tax Board         24-01150           GCA Services Group, Inc.         24-01155           GFR Media, LLC         24-01153           Glow Art LLC dba Gloss Studio         24-01153           Greentech USA, Inc.         24-01222           Halo Branded Solutions, Inc.         24-01226           Harcros Chemicals Inc.         24-01226           Harcros Chemicals Inc.         24-01228           Ileos Beauty USA Corp. dba Axilone USA         24-01235           Innospec Active Chemicals LLC         24-01236           Innovation Brands Corp. dba DojoMojo!         24-01239           International Machine Technology, Inc.         24-01243           International Research Services, Inc.         24-01244           ISO Plastics Corporation         24-01247	EMD Performance Materials Corp.	24-01267
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Jasper416 Consulting, LLC 24-01247	·	
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	Jeen International Corp.	24-01291

JITA Enterprises "Incorporated"	24-01249
Johnson Controls Security Solutions LLC	24-01251
Jones Lang LaSalle Americas, Inc.	24-01252
Kritzer Industries, Inc. dba Kady International	24-01015
KURZ Transfer Products, LP	24-01016
KW Plastics Inc.	24-01021
L & S Shrink Systems, Inc.	24-01023
Legacy Packaging LLC	24-01025
Leger 360, Inc. fdba 360 Market Reach, Inc.	24-01038
Lipotec USA, Inc.	24-01042
Lithotype Company, Inc.	24-01044
Lonza, Inc.	24-01046
M C Packaging Corporation	24-01050
Machine Consulting Services, Inc.	24-01052
Maesa Holdings Inc.	24-01054
Market Track, LLC dba Ad Dynamics	24-01071
Mastermind Management Group, LLC	24-01073
Mays Chemical Company Inc	24-01294
Mimeo.com, Inc.	24-01079
MRI Software LLC	24-01087
Multi-Color Corporation	24-01297
MW Studios, Inc.	24-01299
New York Label & Box Corporation	24-01096
Next Step Laboratories Corp.	24-01097
Nielsen Consumer LLC	24-01099
Office Depot, LLC	24-01100
OnPoint EPM LLC	24-01104
Optimal Business Intel	24-01106
Peak Technologies, Inc.	24-01144
PEG Displays LLC	24-01146
Pilot Chemical Company of Ohio dba Pilot Chemical	24-01151
Qualipac America, Corp.	24-01158
Questex, LLC	24-01161
Roanoke Gas Company	24-01165
Robert's Technology Group, Inc.; and RTG Films Inc	24-01195
Sandream Impact LLC	24-01172
Silgan Plastics LLC	24-01175
SiteCrafting, Inc.	24-01178
Solenis LLC	24-01179
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Somerville Acquisitions Co., Inc.	24-01180
Stage 2 Networks, LLC	24-01184
Steadfast Logistics, Inc.	24-01185
Stephen Gould Corporation	24-01186
Strahl & Pitsch, LLC	24-01302
Studio, Kanji Ishii Inc.	24-01189
Summit Fire & Security LLC fdba Fire & Life Safety America Inc.	24-01191
Takumi International Ltd	24-01194
Tan Thanh Nguyen	24-01196
The Dot Connectors LLC	24-01198
The Fragrance Foundation	24-01199
The Law Office of David C. Deal	24-01201
Tie Commerce, Inc.	24-01204
TMS Logistics, Inc.	24-01207
Twelve, Inc. dba twelveNYC	24-01303
Ultra Chemical, Inc.	24-01209
Univar Solutions USA Inc.	24-01304
Utleys Concepts LLC	24-01306
Vantage Specialty Ingredients, Inc. fdba Lipo Chemicals, Inc.	24-01307
Variable Promotions, LLC	24-01212
Vercara, LLC fdba Security Services, LLC	24-01214
Verla International, Ltd.	24-01259
Voicecom Telecommunications, LLC dba Intelliverse	24-01261
Voigt-Abernathy Sales Corporation	24-01263
VRC Companies, LLC	24-01266
VVF, LLC	24-01268
Waste Industries USA, LLC	24-01269
Weber Marking Systems, Inc. dba Weber Packaging Solutions, Inc.	24-01270
Weckerle Cosmetics USA, Inc.	24-01274
Welcome Management, LLC	24-01275
Zero Wait-State, Inc.	24-01287

<sup>\* 141</sup> Adversary Proceedings

#### Exhibit 2

### **AVOIDANCE ACTION PROCEDURES**

#### A. Effectiveness of the Procedures Order

- 1. This Procedures Order approving the procedures Motion shall apply to all Defendants in the Avoidance Actions listed on **Exhibit 1** attached hereto. To the extent a Party is subject to this Procedures Order as well as the procedures order covering those cases with an amount in controversy greater than \$150,000 in connection with another Avoidance Action, the Parties shall meet and confer to decide whether the actions should proceed under one procedures order or the other. If an agreement cannot be made, the parties may apply to the Court for resolution.
- 2. The Procedures Order will not alter, affect or modify the rights of Defendants to seek a jury trial in or withdrawal of the reference of, Avoidance Actions or otherwise to move for a determination on whether the Court has authority to enter a final judgment, or make a report and recommendation, in an Avoidance Action under 28 U.S.C. § 157, and all such rights shall be preserved unless otherwise agreed to in a responsive pleading consistent with the Bankruptcy Rules and Local Bankruptcy Rules. Any Defendant may seek modification or waiver of any provision of the Procedures Order by filing a letter request, not to exceed three pages, to which Plaintiff is to file a response within three business days. [DSJ 3/12/2024]

### B. Extensions to Answer or File Other Responsive Pleading to the Complaint

3. The time to file an answer or other responsive pleading to a complaint filed in an Avoidance Action shall be extended by 60 days such that an answer or other responsive pleading is due within 90 days after the issuance of the summons.

## C. Waiver of Requirement to Conduct Pretrial Conference

4. **Absent further order of the Court,** Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 16, made applicable to the Avoidance Actions pursuant to Bankruptcy Rule 7016 (*i.e.*, pretrial conferences), is hereby **deemed satisfied by the Court's approval of these Avoidance Action Procedures.** waived and not applicable with respect to the Avoidance Actions. Absent further order of the Court, neither the Plaintiff nor any Defendant shall be required to appear at any initial pretrial conference, including any initial pretrial conference originally scheduled pursuant to Local Rule 7016-2. **[DSJ 3/12/2024]** 

#### D. Waiver of Requirement to Conduct Scheduling Conference

5. Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 26(f), made applicable to the Avoidance Actions pursuant to Bankruptcy Rule 7026 (mandatory meeting before scheduling conference/discovery plan), is hereby waived and is not applicable to the Avoidance Actions. Thus, the parties to the Avoidance Actions shall not be required

to submit a written report as may otherwise be required under Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 26(f).

## E. Discovery, Mediation, and Dispositive Motion Schedule

- 6. All discovery in each Avoidance Action is hereby stayed until the mediation process set forth below (the "Mediation Process") is concluded; provided that the stay of formal discovery shall in no way preclude, with respect to any Avoidance Action, the Plaintiff and applicable Defendant from informally exchanging documents and information in an attempt to resolve such Avoidance Action in advance of, or during, the Mediation Process.
- 7. Any open Avoidance Actions that have not been resolved and/or settled by May 31, 2024 (the "Remaining Avoidance Actions"), shall be referred to mandatory mediation and the Mediation Process in paragraphs 8-13.
- 8. Between June 1, 2024 and June 15, 2024, Defendants in the Remaining Avoidance Actions shall choose a mediator from the list of proposed mediators (each a "Mediator," collectively, the "Mediators") (the "Mediator List") attached hereto as <a href="Exhibit 3">Exhibit 3</a>. Concurrently, Defendants in the Remaining Avoidance Actions shall notify Plaintiff's counsel of the Defendant's choice of Mediator by contacting: Laurie N. Miskowiec, in writing, via email at <a href="Imiskowiec@askllp.com">Imiskowiec@askllp.com</a> or via letter correspondence addressed to ASK LLP, 2600 Eagan Woods Drive, Suite 400, St. Paul, MN 55121. If a Defendant in a Remaining Avoidance Action does not timely choose a Mediator from the Mediator List and notify Plaintiff's counsel of the same, Plaintiff will assign such Remaining Avoidance Action to one of the Mediators from the Mediator List.
- 9. Upon notification of such selection or assignment, the selected Mediator shall have an opportunity to determine whether he/she has any conflicts with the Defendant(s) and, in the event of a conflict, may abstain from acting in the particular mediation. If the selected Mediator abstains, Defendant will be given another 15 days to select an alternate Mediator as described in paragraph 8 above.
- 10. Upon the selection of Mediators, Plaintiff, working with the Mediators, will commence scheduling mediations. Each Mediator will provide to Plaintiff the dates on which the Mediator is available for mediation and the parties shall cooperate with the Mediators and each other regarding the scheduling of mediations. Plaintiff's counsel shall contact Defendant or Defendant's counsel with a list of proposed dates for mediation provided by the Mediator. Mediation will then be scheduled on a first-come, first-served basis.
- 11. Plaintiff will give at least 21 days' written notice of the first date, time and place of the mediation in each Remaining Avoidance Action (the "Mediation Notice"), which notice shall be served on the applicable Defendant.
- 12. Within 7 calendar days after the conclusion of the mediation, the Mediator shall file a report (the "Mediator's Report") pursuant to General Order M-452 in the

- Remaining Avoidance Action, which shall be limited to stating only a) compliance or non-compliance with the General Order and b) whether the Remaining Avoidance Action settled or did not settle.
- 13. The Mediation Process with respect to all of the Remaining Avoidance Actions must be concluded by September 30, 2024.
- 14. Any open Avoidance Actions shall be required to provide the disclosures required under Rule 7026(a)(1) (the "Initial Disclosures") on or before November 22, 2024.
- 15. All written interrogatories, document requests and requests for admission, if any, may be served upon the adverse party any time after the Mediator's Report is filed. All written interrogatories, document requests and requests for admission, if any, must be served no later than November 22, 2024.
- 16. The parties to the Avoidance Actions shall have through and including February 14, 2025 to complete non-expert fact discovery, including depositions of fact witnesses.
- 17. Unless the parties agree to a broader scope of discovery, absent further order of the Court upon a showing of good cause, discovery will be limited solely and specifically to nonprivileged matters (i) that are properly discoverable under the Bankruptcy Rules and (ii) relate solely to the Avoidance Actions.
- 18. Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 33, made applicable herein pursuant to Bankruptcy Rule 7033, shall apply to the Avoidance Actions.
- 19. Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 34, made applicable herein pursuant to Bankruptcy Rule 7034, shall apply to the Avoidance Actions.
- 20. Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 36, made applicable herein pursuant to Bankruptcy Rule 7036, shall apply to the Avoidance Actions.
- 21. Should a discovery dispute arise, the parties' counsel shall promptly confer to attempt in good faith to resolve the dispute. If, notwithstanding their good faith efforts to do so, they are unable to resolve a discovery dispute, the complainant shall file with the Court and email to the Court's chambers, copying counsel for the opponent, a letter outlining said issues. Respondent must reply within two (2) business days by filing a letter on the docket with a copy emailed to the Court's chambers, copying counsel for the opponent. Such letters, excluding exhibits, shall be no longer than two (2) pages. The Court shall then inform the parties if it will require a conference call or formal motion. At any ensuing conference or hearing on a motion, the Court will ask the parties about their prior efforts to resolve the dispute.
- 22. Pursuant to Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 26(a)(2), made applicable herein pursuant to Bankruptcy Rule 7026, disclosures and reports (a) concerning any issue on which a party bears the burden of proof (not including any report by Plaintiff on

- insolvency) and (b) if Defendant intends to provide expert testimony regarding insolvency of the Debtors, such report, if any, shall be made to the Plaintiff on or before March 28, 2025.
- 23. Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 26(a)(2), made applicable herein pursuant to Bankruptcy Rule 7026, disclosures and reports (a) of the parties' rebuttal experts, and (b) Plaintiff's report on the insolvency of the Debtors, if any, shall be made to the adverse party on or before May 30, 2025.
- 24. All expert discovery, including expert witness depositions, shall be concluded on or before June 30, 2025.
- 25. The standard provisions of Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 26(e), made applicable herein pursuant to Bankruptcy Rule 7026, shall apply to the Avoidance Actions with respect to supplementation of discovery responses.
- 26. Either or both parties may seek leave under Local Bankruptcy Rule 7056-1 by **filing** a letter requesting a pre-motion conference, email to the Court, with a copy sent by email to chambers and to the counsel for the opposing party; provided, that all dispositive motions shall be filed and served at any time after the Mediation Process but before July 31, 2025. In the normal course, the Court will not permit the filing and pursuit of a summary judgment motion before the completion of discovery. Notwithstanding Local Bankruptcy Rule 7005-1, the party filing or opposing such dispositive motion shall be allowed to introduce such exhibits as needed to meet its burden of proof or rebut such burden. [DSJ 3/12/2024]

## F. Mediation Procedures and Requirements

- 27. Mediations shall take place in New York, New York, except as otherwise agreed to by the parties and the Mediator, including holding mediations via video conference. In-person mediations shall be held at the law office of Plaintiff's counsel, the Mediator's office, or at another location agreed upon by the Mediator. Local Bankruptcy Rule 9019-1 and the Court's General Order M-452 concerning mediation procedures shall govern the mediations, except as otherwise set forth herein. General Order M-452 is available on the Court's website at: http://www.nysb.uscourts.gov/.
- 28. All proceedings and writing incident to the mediation will be considered privileged and confidential and subject to all the protections of Federal Rule of Evidence 408, and shall not be reported or admitted in evidence for any reason except to prove that a party failed to comply with the Mediation Process set forth in these Procedures.
- 29. The Mediators shall be required to file disclosures prior to the scheduling of mediation.
- 30. The parties in each Remaining Avoidance Action will participate in the mediation, as scheduled and presided over by the chosen Mediator, in good faith and with a

view toward reaching a consensual resolution. The mediation shall be attended in person by a representative of the Defendant with full settlement authority (and if a Defendant is represented by counsel, their counsel) as well as counsel for Plaintiff (who must have settlement authority from Plaintiff, or a Plaintiff representative shall appear as well), except that: the parties may by consent and with the Mediator's approval agree to appear by video conference, and further, that the Mediator, in his or her sole discretion, by request of one of the parties, may allow a party representative to appear via video while its counsel appears in person, and except where the parties otherwise agree. Any such request must be made prior to ten (10) business days before the scheduled mediation date, or Defendant is deemed to waive such request. Should a party representative appear via video while counsel is in person, counsel appearing in person for that party shall have full settlement authority. Should a dispute arise regarding a Mediator's decision on whether to allow a party representative to appear via video rather than in person, a party may apply to the Court, in advance of the mediation, by sending a letter outlining said issues to chambers. The Court may then schedule a conference call to address the issues.

- 31. The Mediator will preside over the mediation with full authority to determine the nature and order of the parties' presentations, and the rules of evidence will not apply. Each Mediator may implement additional procedures which are reasonable and practical under the circumstances.
- 32. The Mediator, in the Mediation Notice (by language provided to Plaintiff by the Mediator) or in a separate notice that need not be filed, may require the parties to provide to the Mediator any relevant papers and exhibits, a statement of position, and a settlement proposal. In the Mediator's discretion, upon notice (which need not be filed), the Mediator may adjourn a mediation or move a mediation to a different location within the same jurisdiction. The Mediator may also continue a mediation that has been commenced if the Mediator determines that a continuation is in the best interest of the parties.
- 33. The parties must participate in the scheduling of mediation and mediate in good faith. If the mediator feels that a party to the mediation is not attempting to schedule or resolve the mediation in good faith, the mediator may file a report with the Court. The Court may, without need for further motion by any party, schedule a hearing. If the Court determines that the party is not cooperating in good faith with the mediation procedures, the Court may consider the imposition of sanctions. Additionally, if either party to the mediation is not attempting to schedule or resolve the mediation in good faith, the opposite party may file a motion for sanctions with the Court. Litigation with respect to the issuance of sanctions shall not delay the commencement of the mediation. Sanctions may include, but are not limited to, attorney's fees and costs and fees of the Mediator.
- 34. Upon notice and a hearing, a party's failure to appear at the mediation or otherwise comply with the Procedures Order with respect to mediation, may result in a default judgment or dismissal being obtained against the party failing to comply with the

mediation provisions. The Mediator shall promptly file with the Court a notice when any party fails to comply with the mediation provisions set forth in the Procedures Order.

- 35. **Absent further order of the Court or agreement of the parties,** the fees and costs of the Mediator (the "Mediation Fee") shall be paid equally by the parties on a fixed-fee schedule as set forth below. The parties shall pay one-fourth of the Mediation Fee as least seven (7) calendar days prior to the commencement of mediation (the "Initial Mediation Fee"). The remaining fee will be due and paid by the parties on the date of mediation, should the mediation go forward. If the parties settle prior to the mediation, the Mediator must be informed of the settlement prior to seven calendar days before the scheduled mediation or the Initial Mediation Fee is nonrefundable: [DSJ 3/12/2024]
  - i. cases with a claim amount (as reflected in the complaint) of less than \$100,000: \$3,000.00 per case;
  - ii. cases with a claim amount (as reflected in the complaint) equal to or greater than \$100,000 and less than \$250,000: \$4,000 per case; and
  - iii. cases with a claim amount (as reflected in the complaint) equal to or greater than \$250,000 and less than \$1,000,000: \$5,000 per case.
  - iv. cases with a claim amount (as reflected in the complaint) equal to or greater than \$1,000,000: \$6,000.00 per case;
- 36. Mediation that is continued for more than one calendar day will be continued on an hourly fee basis to be paid equally by the parties.
- 37. Defendants that have additional Avoidance Actions commenced against their affiliates in the Debtors' bankruptcy cases may mediate all related Avoidance Actions at one time and, in such event, the Mediation Fee shall be based upon the combined total claim amount for all related Avoidance Actions.
- 38. Unless otherwise directed by the Mediator, mediation statements shall be delivered to the Mediator 7 calendar days prior to the mediation. Unless otherwise directed by the Mediator, the mediation statements shall be shared with the opposing party, except that any party that has confidential information may share such confidential information solely with the Mediator. The Mediator will direct the parties as to further instructions regarding the mediation statements. [DSJ 3/12/2024]
- 39. Without the prior consent of both parties, no Mediator shall mediate a case in which he/she or his/her law firm represents a party. If a Mediator's law firm represents any Defendant in the Avoidance Actions, then: (a) the Mediator shall not personally participate in the representation of that Defendant; (b) the law firm shall notate the file to indicate that the Mediator shall have no access to it; and (c) any discussions concerning the particular Avoidance Action by employees of the law firm shall exclude the Mediator. The Mediator's participation in mediation pursuant to the

- Procedures Order shall not create a conflict of interest with respect to the representation of such Defendants by the Mediator's law firm.
- 40. No Mediator shall be called as a witness by any party except as set forth in this paragraph. No party shall attempt to compel the testimony of, or compel the production of documents from, the Mediators or the agents, partners or employees of their respective law firms. Neither the Mediators nor their respective agents, partners, law firms or employees (a) are necessary parties in any proceeding relating to the mediation or the subject matter of the mediation, nor (b) shall be liable to any party for any act or omission in connection with any mediation conducted under the Procedures Order. Any documents provided to the Mediator by the parties shall be destroyed 30 days after the filing of the Mediator's Report unless the Mediator is otherwise ordered by the Court. However, subject to court order, a Mediator may be called as witness by any party and may be compelled to testify on a limited basis in proceedings where it is alleged that a party failed to comply with mediation procedures as required in the foregoing paragraphs of this Procedures Order.
- 41. All proceedings and writings incidental to the mediation shall be privileged and confidential, and shall not be reported or placed in evidence.

#### G. Miscellaneous

- 42. If, after dispositive motions have been filed in an Avoidance Action and a decision on the same does not resolve the matter, that Avoidance Action shall be scheduled for a trial date that is convenient to the Court's calendar. Parties should be ready to proceed to trial within three weeks after such decision is rendered. Before seeking such trial date, the parties shall have met and conferred and agreed on their best estimate of the length of the trial, taking into account the procedures set forth below. When seeking such date, they shall inform the Court's Courtroom Deputy of such estimate. Normally, the Court expects that Avoidance Action trials will not take longer than one day. If the parties believe otherwise, they should arrange a pretrial conference before scheduling the trial.
- 43. On or before two weeks before the trial, the parties shall have (a) met and conferred and used their best efforts to agree on a joint agreed exhibit book and shall have identified any exhibits whose admissibility is not agreed and (b) exchanged proposed witness lists.
- 44. On or before one week before the scheduled trial date, the parties shall (a) submit to chambers (in hard copy) declarations under penalty of perjury or affidavits of their direct witnesses, who shall be present at trial for cross-examination and redirect, or have previously sought (by email to the Court's chambers, with a copy to counsel for the opposing party) the Court's permission to examine direct witnesses at trial and (b) submit the joint exhibit book referred to in paragraph 43.
- 45. The Local Bankruptcy Rules shall apply, except that this Procedures Order shall control with respect to the Avoidance Actions to the extent of any conflict with the Local Rules or other applicable rules and orders of the Court.

- 46. The deadlines and/or provisions contained in this Procedures Order may be extended and/or modified by the Court upon written motion and for good cause shown or consent of the parties pursuant to stipulation, which stipulation (a) if solely related to an extension of time for Defendant to file a response to the complaint, must be filed with the Court, and (b) in all other deadline extensions, must be filed with the Court, with a copy emailed to the Court's chambers and "So Ordered."
- 47. FAILURE TO COMPLY WITH THESE PROCEDURES MAY RESULT IN DISMISSAL OR OTHER SANCTION. If delay or other act or omission of your adversary may result in a sanction against you, it is incumbent on you to promptly bring this matter to the Court for relief.

## Exhibit 3

# **MEDIATOR LIST**

- 1. Ian Connor Bifferato The Bifferato Firm, P.A.
- 2. Derek C. Abbott Morris, Nichols, Arshy & Tunnell LLP
- 3. Edward Schnitzer
  Womble Bond Dickinson (US) LLP
- 4. Sean Southard Klestadt Winters Jureller Southard & Stevens, LLP